



# Women's Cancer Task Force

Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center

Fall Issue - 2005

Mission Statement: Empowering women, through knowledge and support, to gain optimal health.

Visit [www.womenstaskforce.org](http://www.womenstaskforce.org)



## LUNCHEON & STYLE SHOW \$92,000 RAISED AT SEPTEMBER EVENT

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual charitable event sponsored by the Women's Task Force of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center set new records in attendance and proceeds raised for the Secret Sister Mammography Fund. A crowd of 1200 attended the affair, which celebrates survivorship and the generous spirit of the community. All 19 models including men, women, and children were cancer survivors and they were received warmly as they modeled the latest in fall fashions from local boutiques.

The \$92,000 provided through Secret Sister underwriting, memberships and attendance will be added to the nearly \$200,000 raised to date to provide mammograms for underserved women in our community.

Since the SSS Mammography Fund was established in March of 2003, nearly 1,000 local women, between the ages of 40 and 49 have received screening mammograms. These women would not normally be eligible for such screening until reaching the age of 50.

RiverBend Cancer Services is our partner in this effort, since they serve as the administrator of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Program. They are in the unique position of being able to direct women to appropriate programs and assist them in receiving additional services if needed - i.e. diagnostic mammograms, ultrasounds and biopsies.

A special thanks to Tricia Sloma of WNDU and Dr. Michael Method for again accepting the co-emcee duties and adding so much personality to the event! Janet Auel and Sandy Clauser, co-chairs directed this year's successful event. Honorary co-chairs were Tish Brey and Bette Clark. The Foundation associates of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center were invaluable in their support of the efforts of the Women's Task Force.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR NEXT YEAR'S  
SECRET SISTER LUNCHEON AND STYLE SHOW  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2006**

## SJRM Cancer Institute and Specialty Care

The Women's Task Force will have a new home with the opening of the newly remodeled \$1.8 million dollar Cancer Center. It is located in pavilion II at 707 East Cedar Street in South Bend, adjacent to the main campus. The lower level meeting rooms and offices have been furnished for use in the cancer initiatives and support services of the WTF as well as a large state-of-the-art physician conference room.

The institute will also be home to the Genetics and Risk Assessment Center, Oncology Research Department, Oncology and Radiology treatment services as well as an Image Recovery Center. This center, staffed by specialists trained at John Hopkins Hospital, will provide services such as therapeutic massage, wig consultations, and other help with the "non-clinical" aspects of cancer treatment.

Complete with a canopy-protected main entrance off St. Louis Boulevard, the glass enclosed lobby features a concierge information desk, a coffee-style café and a library, which offers computer use online access in addition to research materials.

A nurse navigator is a key component in this patient friendly environment. The nurse navigator will assist the patient "navigate" the system. This will include overseeing the scheduling of doctor's appointments, diagnostic tests and other treatment services, all of which can be very confusing to a newly diagnosed cancer patient.

The members of the task force look forward to the opening of the Center and are most grateful to the Administration and Foundation of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center for providing a beautiful new "home base."

## Cancer Support Groups Welcome

With the additional space provided by the new Cancer Institute, we are expanding our support group base. As cancer survivors, we are aware that support groups are needed for those undergoing cancer treatment and afterward. We have been approached to begin groups for those with colorectal cancer, lymphoma and adult leukemia, melanoma, lung and oral cancers.

Many of our existing support groups, such as Ovarian and Breast cancer survivors, also provide an educational purpose along with welcoming newly diagnosed with support. If you or one of your loved ones would be interested in more information, please contact the Women's Task Force office at 574 472-6095.

If you would be interested in moving your existing cancer support group to the Cancer Institute meeting rooms, please contact Lorrie Glumb at 574 237-8010 or Joan Lennon at 574 472-6095.

### **N.D. DOMER RUN BENEFITS OVARIAN CANCER**

A record number of runners and walkers took part in the annual event on the campus of Notre Dame on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. The 485 participants not only spread awareness for the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer, they raised \$\_\_\_\_\_ in proceeds which is divided between the Notre Dame Alumni Association's Cancer education programs and the Gyna Girls, a local ovarian support group. This group of women, sponsored by the WTF, not only supports newly diagnosed women but also is a leading advocate for cancer education in the community.

This year marked the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual event organized and fully supported by the Office of Recreational Sports under the leadership of Sally Deragonski. This was the second year that the local Gyna Girls assisted in providing some of the volunteers needed to staff the run/walk and prepare and serve the pancakes for the breakfast following the run.

Survivors, their families, and Notre Dame students and staff participated. The N.D. Alumni Association provided special Domer Run shirts for all attendees. Participants were wearing yellow, workers wore white and survivors were given teal shirts, which is the color for ovarian cancer awareness.

This year's event was undertaken in memory of Barbara Link '75 wife of former Law School Dean, Dave Link. In addition to this financial underwriting, Dave donated 150 teal bracelets, which were given to the participants.

Special honored guests were Ruth Boutelle and Beckie Morris, last year's co-chairs who were recognized at the event by Bill Reagan, coordinator of the race for Rec Sports.

**SAVE THE DATE  
DOMER/OVARIAN RUN AND WALK  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2006**

**'05 Pap-A-Thon A SUCCESS  
PLANS UNDERWAY FOR MAY 17, 2006 REPEAT**

On May 25, 2005, the second Annual Pap-A-Thon took place. In 12 hours, at five sites, 29 physicians, 14 certified nurse midwives and nurse practitioners, 50 plus

volunteers and a group of dedicated clinical and administrative support staff worked together to provide pap screenings to 692 women. With support from the South Bend Medical Foundation, RiverBend Cancer Services and the addition of two new sites, the WTF was able to nearly triple the number of pap smears provided through their first Pap-A-Thon, which took place in August 2004.

In addition to the screening, women were assisted in signing up for health care programs, finding medical homes and given tote bags that contained literature on healthy living and reminders of the importance of yearly screening and early detection. The sites for the '05 Free Pap-A-Thon were Indiana University South Bend, Saint Joseph Midwifery of Michiana, Saint Joseph Health Center on Chapin Street, Saint Joseph Health Center in Plymouth and Heart City Health Center, Elkhart.

Planning is underway for the '06 Pap-A-Thon under the WTF members, co-chairs, Sara Niedbalski and Nancy White and the umbrella of SJRMC Outreach, vice president, Sister Laureen Painter and Michelle Peters, coordinator.

**THE NEXT PAP-A-THON WILL TAKE PLACE ON  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2006**

### **NEW MEMBERS JOIN THE TASK FORCE**

Janice Hall  
Mary Hunt  
Kim Zabrowsky

The WTF welcomes the addition of these women to our efforts to "empower women through knowledge to gain optimum health" and secure a healthier community for everyone. Their personal experiences as leaders in the community as well as cancer survivors will add vitality to the work of the Task Force as we assume a greater role in the new Cancer Institute.

### **GYNA GIRLS REPORT**

### **DID YOU KNOW????**

During 2005, The Women's Task Force has also partnered with other community organizations on such outreach events as:

- Touch Base, which provided prostate and other health screenings and education for men in our community and was organized by RiverBend Cancer Services.
- The "Chicken Run" sponsored by Lewis Hall on the Notre Dame campus. Proceeds benefited the Young Survivors, who presented a panel discussion in the women's dorm.
- The Women's Expo at Century Center where the WTF shared an informational booth with RiverBend and distributed information on the Secret Sister and BCCP program for underserved women.
- The Hispanic "Angels Night Out" program. Sponsored by the Multi-Cultural Outreach of SJRMC under the direction of Adrianna Ros . The event held at Saint Adalbert's hall attracted over 137 Hispanic women who came to learn more about breast health and cancer detection. All Angels' Night Out events were underwritten by a gift from the Garcia Family Foundation.
- Angels Night Out. This was an education and awareness event, regarding women's health as it relates to cancer prevention and treatment. It represents a collaboration of Memorial Hospital, Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, American Cancer Society, RiverBend Cancer Services, and Notre Dame and pharmaceutical partners. It is a yearly event also supported by the gift of Dr. Juan C. Garcia.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

#### **VISION**

*The Women's Cancer Task Force is made up of women cancer survivors who have come together to raise awareness and develop initiatives regarding women's health issues. Initiatives include recommending and implementing programs that relate to women and cancer, promoting early detection, explaining treatment options, providing supportive care and celebrating survivorship.*

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.womenstaskforce.org](http://www.womenstaskforce.org)

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POSTAGE

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED